

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SAM SIMMERMAKER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long and distinguished career of one of my heroes in broadcasting, Sam Simmermaker.

For fifty years, Sam Simmermaker has been a fixture on the airwaves of WCSI/WKKG in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana. As the "Voice of High School Sports", Sam has amassed an extraordinary career over the last half century that deserves to be commemorated on the floor of the People's House.

Both graduates of Indiana University in Bloomington, Sam and his beloved wife Fran came to Columbus in December of 1959 for what they thought would be a brief stop on their way to St. Louis. Sam was and still is a diehard Cardinals fan and it was his dream to become the radio voice of that baseball team.

Thankfully, the Simmermakers never left our community in Eastern Indiana and on January 1, 2010, Sam will celebrate fifty years in broadcasting on WCSI.

The list of awards and recognitions that Sam Simmermaker has received is long and distinguished. In 1976 and 1997, Sam was chosen as the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters "Sportscaster of the Year."

He was inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Indiana Broadcast Association Hall of Fame a decade later.

One of the biggest awards that Sam Simmermaker received was his induction into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2006, he joined the long list of legendary Hoosier basketball players and coaches as a St. Vincent Silver Medal Award winner.

Columbus High School basketball fans know him as the familiar voice of the Bull Dogs who for decades has brought a unique yet consistent style to a game that has evolved tremendously during his decades of service.

Listeners and fans alike can identify Sam by his trademark call—"Holy Cow!"—during his play-by-play call of local high school basketball, football and baseball games.

Aside from his professional role, Sam continues to be an active citizen in the community. He serves as a board member of the Columbus Fire Department's Cheer Fund and is a member of the First Christian Church.

Still an athlete, Sam can still be found playing first base in the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's Old-Timer Slow Pitch Softball League.

Sam's long career has spanned many games over the last fifty years, but more importantly, it is a testament to his dedication to his community, friends and family.

Sam Simmermaker has become an icon in Columbus, Indiana and across its airwaves. To me, he will forever be a dear friend and mentor.

HONORING MR. EDGAR H. LANCASTER, JR.

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the life and achievements of Edgar H. Lancaster, Jr., who died on October 12, 2009, at the age of 91.

Lancaster was a graduate of Tallulah High School, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana State University School of Law. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his discharge, he returned to Louisiana to pursue his law degree, in which he actively practiced from 1948 until the time of his death.

Lancaster served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1952 to 1968, where he continued his service to his community and state. In this capacity, he also served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and Speaker Pro Tempore.

Among his impressive list of endeavors, Lancaster also was an organizer of Southern National Bank at Tallulah, where he served on its Board of Directors, in addition to working as the bank's attorney.

For his remarkable life's work, Lancaster received numerous awards and distinctions. In 1986, the Louisiana Bar Foundation named him Attorney of the Year, and he was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame in 1987. He was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as the 6th Judicial District Judge Pro Tempore from 1992 to 1993, and served on the Louisiana Law Institute for over 50 years, also acting as past president and chairman emeritus of the Institute. Moreover, Lancaster was very involved in the Louisiana State Bar Association, where he served on both the Board of Governors and the Attorney Ethics Commission.

A devoted husband and father, Lancaster is survived by his lovely wife of sixty-five years, Beverly Vedros Lancaster, and their three children. They are also the proud grandparents to three grandsons.

A man of many dimensions, Lancaster was an avid golfer and an unofficial historian in his spare time.

It is my pleasure to honor the late Edgar H. Lancaster, a man who served the people of Madison Parish as well as the state of Louisiana for many years. His commitment, hard work and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

HONORING 373RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 940, a resolution recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary. The National Guard has a rich and vital history of protecting our Nation, and I am proud to support this resolution honoring them.

I would like to thank Congressman LATTI for authoring this important resolution, and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Speaker NANCY PELOSI for their skill and leadership in bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, since the attacks on September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of members of the Army and Air National Guard have been called upon by their States and the Federal Government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad. As a conferee on H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, I was proud to support the provision of \$200 million to support National Guard and Reserve military construction projects. The men and women of the National Guard make so many sacrifices to keep our Nation and its people safe, and we need to make sure they have the support and funding to perform their duties. This resolution recognizes and honors those sacrifices.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution thanking the members of the National Guard for their service and continued support, as well as expressing condolences and gratitude to the families of members of the National Guard who have lost their lives. I am proud to honor and support the compassionate, courageous, and dedicated members of the National Guard who serve a critical role in protecting the United States and its citizens' freedoms and treasured liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 940.

RECOGNIZING THE BLUEWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Bluewater Elementary School in Bluewater, New Mexico, for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating academic excellence and dramatic gains in student achievement levels.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award was created in 1982 to recognize schools where students attain and maintain high academic standards and are pushed to improve themselves and further their dedication to scholastic achievement. This award shows that Bluewater Elementary School is serving its students well and helping them make strides forward in their academic careers.

Schools like Bluewater Elementary achieve such great distinctions because of the hard work and dedication of the teachers, staff, and administration. Their students also deserve to be commended for fully taking advantage of all of the opportunities provided to them by their exceptional staff. Bluewater Elementary School is a model for the progress other schools throughout the nation should strive to achieve.

I am honored to have Blue Ribbon Schools like Bluewater Elementary School in my district. I commend their achievement and wish them luck in the continuing their academic achievement.

HONORING MIKE NURY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2009 San Joaquin Winegrowers Association 7th Annual San Joaquin Valley Wine & Grape Industry Forum. The luncheon will be held in Fresno, California on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Mr. Mike Nury came to the United States in November 1945 to attend American International University in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army and served during the Korean War. Upon completion of his military career, he arrived in California and attended the University of California, Berkeley. He later transferred to the University of California, Davis where he earned a bachelor of science and master of science degree in food science in 1952. In 1953, Mr. Nury started his career with Vie-Del Company, a Fresno, California based winery, as a research chemist. His role at the winery had a tremendous impact on the company, as well as the industry as a whole. He played a major role in developing an improved method of concentrating grape flavors by adjusting the temperature and time used to concentrate the grapes. The outcomes were significant. The new concentrate had no ethanol, which was important for those unable to metabolize ethanol, thus eliminating ethanol taxes on the original concentrate. It also weighed less, reducing shipping costs, and the new concentrate made it possible to add wine flavor to more products.

In 1972, Mr. Nury was named President of the Vie-Del, and in 1990 the Nury family purchased the controlling interest in Vie-Del from Joseph E. Seagram & Sons. Since then, the company has continued to grow, producing millions of gallons of concentrate per year. Mr. Nury has served as president and owner, and after his semi-retirement, he served as chairman of the board. His family has also taken an interest in the wine industry. Two of his

three daughters, Dianne and Roxanne, have spent many years with the company and his brother, Fred, taught Enology at California State University, Fresno and later worked for Seagram in the Bay Area. Mr. Nury is only one of three winemakers to have served as president of the Wine Institute and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. He has also played an active role with the Fresno Rotary for over thirty-five years, served as a member of the Fresno Community Hospital Foundation Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Nury many years of continued success.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK AMENDMENT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have witnessed the horror of the choice between a back alley abortion and a forced marriage to avoid disgrace. These were the realities women faced prior to 1973. My fear is that if this harmful Stupak/Pitts language is signed into law, we will revert back to those dark times.

Until now, for over 30 years we lived in this House in peaceful coexistence, the pros and the cons getting together on the fact that the Hyde amendment said no federal money can be spent. We on our side simply had the law.

Critical to this debate is to break down the facts. The opposition claims that the Stupak/Pitts Amendment codifies current law. This is grossly incorrect.

Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond current law by placing unprecedented restrictions on individuals' use of their own private dollars. The Hyde Amendment does not apply to private funding nor does it apply to administrative costs. It has only placed limits on direct federal appropriations being used to fund abortion benefits. The Stupak Amendment expands the Hyde prohibitions on the use of Federal funds for an abortion benefit to include "any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion."

The Hyde Amendment does not include similar, far-reaching language. Seventeen States currently provide abortion coverage in Medicaid with separate State funding.

The opposition claims that this amendment will not change current insurance plans for women. This is blatantly wrong.

A report by health policy experts at the George Washington University School of Public Health concludes that the Stupak Amendment "will have an industry-wide effect, eliminating coverage of medically indicated abortions over time for all women, not only those whose coverage is derived through a health insurance exchange."

The opposition claims that the segregation of funding under the House bill is an accounting sham. This is blatantly false.

In the Capps Amendment, the segregation of funding piece is based on the current model the Federal Government uses to pay for abor-

tions currently permitted in Medicaid. States are permitted to use their own funding to provide additional abortion coverage under Medicaid.

For me, and for many of my colleagues, it means 30 or 40 years of our life is being cancelled out with this amendment.

I am afraid that we are driving young women, poor women, all women of child-bearing age back to the back alley, and I dread to see that day.

COMMENDING RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, GARY JONES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to commend Rapides Parish School District Superintendent, Gary Jones, for his contributions to local education, specifically his plans to launch Aiken cyberacademy this spring, which will revolutionize learning options available to our students.

This virtual academy is modeled similarly to an online charter school in that it will be interactive and self-paced. Since students will be registered in the district system, Aiken will differ from online charter schools since students will be able to take other courses, as well as join extracurricular activities by attending a regular school.

As our nation's educators continue to look for ways to improve and strengthen education in our country, I believe this is an innovative alternative for students who have not thrived in the traditional classroom. In addition, this plan will provide more choices for home-schooled children.

To keep our communities on the cutting edge of educational advancements, I am proud of Gary Jones for ensuring such a creative option is available to help prepare our students. Please join me in honoring him for his work on behalf of our young students.

PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, we came to work this year to deliver affordable, high-quality health care to all Americans. Instead of offering the possibility of health care to all Americans, some want to deny essential health care—reproductive health care—to women.

For politicians to intrude on a woman or couple's most personal and painful decisions is cynical and wrong. Nobody in America has the right to use government to impose their religious beliefs on someone else. Yet the Stupak-Pitts amendment would do just that.

The Stupak-Pitts amendment adopted by this House does not—does not—preserve the status quo on abortion. The Stupak-Pitts amendment tells millions of middle-class